

FRANCHISE BILL KICKED TO DEATH.

Continued from Page One.

Trammell asked if they smacked of demagoguery. He had been accused of this in advocating the franchise tax, but asked if it was demagoguery to urge legislation similar to that enacted in other States many years ago. If it was he would plead guilty.

Then he referred to the justice and fairness of the proposition. Was it not right, he asked, that the public utilities be taxed for the privilege of doing business the same as a citizen is taxed?

Why should one escape its share of the public burden and force the other to pay for the right to engage in business? There was no element of fairness in such condition, but with a franchise tax equality of taxation would be created.

That was all that could be desired, uniformity of taxation. Not to permit valuable property in the form of franchises to escape being taxed. It had a value; it was property; it was an asset in a transaction, therefore, a franchise should be a subject of taxation.

Carefully Senator Trammell covered his subject from every point, especially showing that the taxation imposed by the bill was not excessive or unjust.

He was followed by Senator Adams in opposition, who began his address with the dissuasive argument on motives governing the casting of a vote.

"It is a matter of extreme regret to me," said Senator Adams, "that it is almost invariably, if a man differs in his vote from the opinion of another, that he is credited with having been corrupted. I hope to see the time come when we will be broad enough to establish the belief of honesty and purity of motive in such matters."

"Whenever we can reach that point, when we can concede the right of others to honesty and purity, in opinion of motive can be entertained. I do not believe that there is a Senator on this floor that could be influenced, and I hope for the time and believe that it will come when we can discuss questions on their merits. I propose on this occasion, as all others, to vote as I see fit."

Senator Adams then declared his belief that the bill meant a license tax, while Senator Trammell had talked about a franchise tax, and quoted the Constitution in line with the argument of Knight in his speech. Mr. Adams attacked the exemptions in the bill and ironically asked why Senator Trammell did not place the public school fund in the bill, instead of colleges.

Mr. Trammell replied that he had introduced a bill for such purpose early in the session.

In declaring the uselessness of the bill, Senator Adams stated that "the Comptroller had the power to tax, and if he has not all the power he needs, then I will work to give it to him. It is not necessary to get up a new-fangled method of taxation, and I will vote against the bill."

Senator Buckman said: "It is not a constitutional tax, and we have no right to pass a bill that is unconstitutional or that has suspicion of it. I will deny none of the authorities Senator Trammell has quoted—I will confirm them all—but they are not applicable to this State."

Senator Buckman then quoted one of the citations used by Peter Knight and proceeded along the line of argument that gentleman had affected before the committee. "I am opposed to the license tax," said Mr. Buckman, "because it does not bear equally."

"Unlimited power is given to the Comptroller," he declared.

Senator Harris said: "In this undeveloped country of ours I question whether now is the proper time for a franchise tax. In the speech of Mr. J. M. Barrs, before the committee, he said it would be most injurious to the people of this State, because it would raise railway rates. I agreed with Mr. Barrs. A franchise tax is constitutional. There is no doubt of it, and I am quoting from my friend Barrs, when I say so. He said Senate Bill No. 8 was constitutional, and his opinion is good enough for me. When

J. M. Barrs says anything to me I will back his opinion every time.

"This bill is unfair, unjust, uncalled for, and would oppress a certain class of individuals."

Senator Harris also said that he was opposed to a license tax.

Senator Beard said the object of the bill was most commendable, and that it was not an unfair nor an unjust tax.

The bill, however, was unconstitutional, because of certain exemptions. The Legislature has the power to pass a franchise tax bill, because it has power to do all things not prohibited, but this bill did not conform to constitutional requirements, and he felt it was his duty to vote against it because of that fact.

Senator Hudson spoke at length in favor of the bill, and made excellent argument for its support.

Senator Humphries said: "I am in favor of a franchise tax, but before I support a franchise bill I must be satisfied that it is just. I am not satisfied with this bill. I think No. 8 is the best."

Senator Trammell asked if he did not vote against the motion to reconsider adoption of substitute, to which Senator Humphries replied that he did because he wished to follow the wishes of the introducer of the bill, and Senator Trammell had so moved.

Senator Cone said he was opposed to the bill and that his preference was for No. 8, but the principle of franchise was a great one and worthy of support, and, therefore, while he did not like this bill it was the best he could get and he would vote for it.

He said: "If the corporate interests of this State don't stop interfering with legislation the wrath of the people will sweep them out of existence."

Continuing, Senator Cone vehemently declared that "the people who are opposing this bill would oppose any other bill."

Senator Crane said he would not vote for the bill because certain public utilities are already taxed.

The Senate adjourned until 3 p. m. Monday.

ADV. TECHNICALLY-EDUCATED MEN NEEDED.

Not Enough to Meet the Demand of the Industrial World—Graduates of the Technical Schools Sought Eagerly by Employers.

Some time ago a large industrial concern of the East sent a representative to Pittsburgh with the authority to employ one hundred draftsmen and engineers. The representative was able to secure only forty, and these he had to pay anywhere from fifty to sixty per cent. more than they were then earning to induce them to change.

The incident emphasized the great demand there is for technically trained men in every part of the United States. Not only are their services required—at high salaries—in all kinds of construction work, but they are as much in demand for administrative positions. A large proportion of the men at the heads of the various railroad companies are those with engineering educations, and it is stated on good authority that sixty per cent. of the officials of the steel industry are technically trained men.

Such is the demand for the man with a technical education that a writer in a recent number of a national industrial publication refers to him as the "autocrat of the business world," meaning that he may command almost any salary within reason. The same writer cites the fact that industrial employers are eagerly seeking the graduates of the technical schools, and mentions an instance where one firm wanted to employ the entire graduating class of a well-known engineering university.

No single agency has done so much to give men technical training as has the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pa. By the unique methods of this great institution, young men and older men may gain thorough technical training in all the leading engineering trades and professions, without giving up any employment that they may have. In almost all large industrial concerns of America these schools have graduates working with the graduates of leading universities. The schools can point to thousands of cases where men formerly working as laborers or occupying inferior positions have, through the I. C. S. perfected system of training by mail, become engineers, superintendents, managers, foremen, or heads of their own enterprises.

In fact, the International Correspondence Schools make it easy for the ambitious man, in his spare hours, and at small expense, to rise to the level of the high-salaried experts that no man can say truthfully that he lacks opportunity.

FAULKNER PLAYS HIS PICCOLO.

Two Performances in the House Yesterday Exhibiting Remarkable Versatility of the Virtuoso—Freedom of the Press for the House—That is, One Without Cost.

In the House yesterday Professor Faulkner gave two highly entertaining performances on the piccolo.

The first was a slow movement filled with sentiment and expression and impressively rendered, exhibiting remarkable imagery as well as the technique and expression of the artist. The other was a dashing arrangement, thrilling and inspiring, giving the performer an opportunity to manifest his versatility and at the same time a rare appreciation of the popular demand for ragtime rondeau. Though his encores must have been gratifying, the professor admitted with modesty that two appearances the same day were more than he was accustomed to giving.

The piccolo concert was the only compensating salve to soothe the pain occasioned by the cruel manner in which the House barded the bill of Mr. Wilson of Calhoun, to provide for the printing of the minutes of School Boards in the county newspapers at the regular legal rate for advertising. The avalanche was so severe that Mr. Wilson dropped a platonic tear on the altar of his devotion and withdrew the measure, after an emasculating amendment was adopted. It was a subtle but certain expression that the House believes in a free press (without cost), and all the eloquence of active and passive newspaper men in the House did avail nothing. The andante movement of Representative Faulkner put it to sleep soundly and tucked it securely in its little trundle bed.

And here we pass on to the second solo.

Mr. Clarke of Jefferson had a bill on second reading to provide a penalty for any person to obtain money on a contract to perform service with the intent to defraud. Mr. Reese of Escambia opposed the bill on the ground that it was unconstitutional, and that the South, which had been kept particularly free from legislation of a character that would tend to work hardship on the laborer, should be wary of any measure like it, because of the opportunity offered to unscrupulous employers to bind and browbeat employees. Mr. Pettigrew, Mr. Willis of Levy, Mr. Knight of Columbia, Mr. MacWilliams of St. Johns and Mr. Williams of Jackson spoke in support of the bill. They didn't care whether it was constitutional or not, they regarded it as a good bill. No honest man, they said, had anything to fear from it.

The discussion was tame until the gentleman from Taylor came with his piccolo. When he began to ask who was boss in this country, nobody thought of the graduated bludgeon at the White House. Oh, no.

"Who is boss in your house? Why, the cook, of course. Who is boss at your hotel? Why, the negro porter. Who is boss on your turpentine farm? The nigger, of course."

Unanswerable. Ragtime won, and the bill came near to being passed right then, had not the speaker mildly suggested that it would be better to first have it engrossed.

MORE MONEY FOR STATE HOUSE OFFICERS.

In the House yesterday the bill to increase the salaries of the State House officers was reported, with a substitute, to make the salaries of the Comptroller, Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Secretary of State \$3,000 a year instead of \$2,500, as provided for in the original bill. The substitute was referred to the committee for engrossing after amendments adding the Adjutant General to the list at \$3,000 and the State Chemist at a salary of \$2,500 were adopted. A separate bill providing for an increase of the State Auditor to \$2,500 and the Assistant State Auditor to \$2,250 was passed on second reading.

BOARDERS—Parties who have accommodations for boarders have registered at the People's Lobby. Any one desiring a board can be directed to a convenient location by seeking such information at the Lobby.

For five months in the year Cairo, Egypt, is a dead city, no one staying to endure the heat who can possibly get away.

The elder duck is so tame while hatching that it quite often may be lifted by hand while the nest is robbed of down and eggs.

P. T. Nicholson
The Jeweler



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